

SPAWN





PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

After being attacked by a possessed Sara, Jim has her pinned down. But why is Jim in jeopardy of losing the woman he loves? In a flashback, Jim leaves Sara to meet with Marc. Jim confesses to Marc that he is Spawn and needs his help to take down the people who have killed those close to him. Jim tells him to think it over. Marc agrees and before he leaves, gives Jim information to help him on his quest.

Back at Sara's apartment, her transformation into a demon has occurred. Jim calls her to say he is on his way back. A crazed Sara waits for him with a butcher knife. When Jim arrives, Sara attacks him. He morphs into Spawn and using his powers, exorcises the demon from her body.

Afterwards, Jim calls Marc. Marc, thinking the call from Jim is to discuss previous matters, is shocked when he is asked to call 9-1-1 for Sara.

Jim is devastated that he has put the woman he loves in grave danger.



Jim Downing (Spawn) – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn...and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



Sara Johnston – When Jim woke from his coma (issue #185), Sara was the first person to greet him on the other side of the darkness. A woman of strong faith, Sara's connection to Jim will test her in ways she could never imagine.



Marc Rosen – A would-be reporter-turned-media manager and confidant of Jim Downing, Marc views Jim as his ticket to a better life – though the price for that success may be far greater than Marc knows.

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WEEE-000 WEEE-000 WEEE-000 WEEE-000

E.M.S.
UNIT 34--
WHAT IS YOUR
E.T.A.?

ARRIVAL IN
APPROXIMATELY
9 MINUTES.

ANY SPECIAL
INSTRUCTIONS?

MAY NEED
AN O.R. ON
STANDBY.

ROGER.
WILL TRY TO
FACILITATE.

DO YOU
HAVE INFO
ON PATIENT
YET?

TALKING
TO POLICE ON THE
OTHER LINE. ONE OF
THEIR SQUAD CARS IS
CARRYING THE PERSON
WHO FOUND THE FEMALE.
GATHERING HER DATA
NOW. SHOULD HAVE
IT BY THE TIME WE
PULL IN.

THANK
YOU. STAFF
IS ON
ALERT.



YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY QUIET BACK THERE. YOU ALRIGHT?

YEAH, JUST THINKING TO MYSELF. YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING?



THEY RADIOED THE DESTINATION, BUT I GET YOUR CONCERN. THIS MUST BE TOUGH ON YOU.

THE HOSPITAL? HOW FAR AWAY IS IT?

ABOUT TEN MINUTES. THE AMBULANCE SHOULD BE THERE ALREADY BY THE TIME WE PULL UP.

YOU THINK SHE'S GOING TO BE OKAY?



LOOK, I'VE BEEN TO DOZENS OF THESE 911 CALLS. MOST OF THE TIME IT SEEMS MUCH WORSE AT THE START. EMOTIONS ARE RUNNING HIGH, JUST LIKE YOURS ARE. BUT ONCE EVERYONE CATCHES THEIR BREATH, MOST OF THE TIME EVERYBODY'S JUST FINE.

THANKS.

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR. BUT THIS ONE MAY BE A BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN WHAT YOU'RE USED TO.

THEN TELL THE DOCTORS WHAT YOU KNOW. THEY'LL GIVE HER THE BEST TREATMENT THEY CAN, MR. DOWNING. BESIDES, WITH THE AMOUNT OF GOOD DEEDS YOU'VE BEEN DOING... I'LL BET THE ENTIRE STAFF THERE WILL BEND OVER BACKWARDS.



"MY WIFE SAYS YOU'RE A 'MIRACLE WORKER.' DOCTORS AND NURSES LIKE IT WHEN THEY MEET PEOPLE IN THE SAME BUSINESS THEY ARE. SO HOLD ON TIGHT. THE SQUAD CAR FOLLOWING THE AMBULANCE SAYS TRAFFIC'S PRETTY LIGHT..."

"WE SHOULD ONLY BE A FEW MINUTES BEHIND THEM."



I NEED TO GO NOW--BEFORE IT GETS TOO CRAZY AT THE HOSPITAL. I'LL KEEP YOU UPDATED AS MUCH AS I CAN.

JUST STAY CLOSE TO THE PHONE. I'M GUESSING IT'S ABOUT TO RING OFF THE HOOK.



SO LET IT! I WANT TO BE WITH YOU. WITH SARA.

I KNOW. BUT YOU SERVE A BETTER PURPOSE IF YOU'RE HERE.



WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO HANDLE EVERYTHING AT THE E.R. ON YOUR OWN? LET ONE OF THE FOUNDATION EMPLOYEES HANDLE THE CALLS.

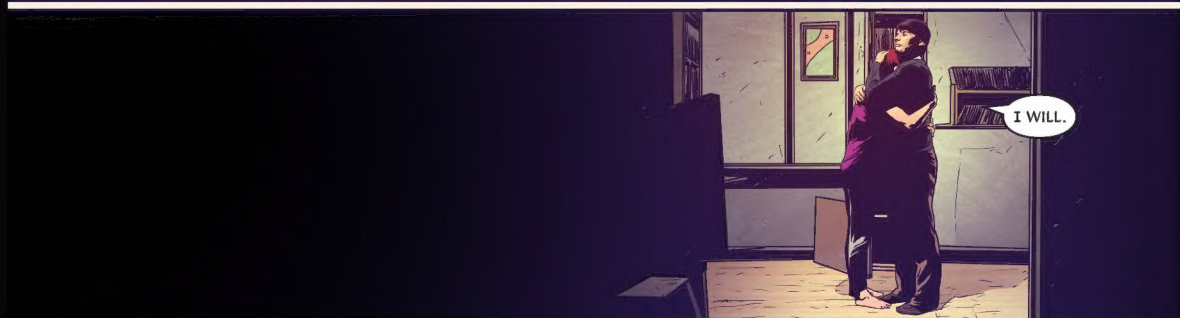
NO!



THEY CAN'T! AND YOU KNOW IT! IT'S GOING TO BE A GODDAMN MAD-HOUSE DOWN THERE! EVERY MEDIA OUTLET IS GOING TO DIG AND PROBE TO FIND OUT "WHAT HAPPENED TO DOWNING'S GIRLFRIEND?" THIS IS THE KIND OF SHIT THEY LIVE FOR. LIKE A PACK OF WOLVES, THEY'LL JUMP OVER THEMSELVES TRYING TO GET THE EXCLUSIVE.

IF I NEED HELP YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST AND YOU CAN'T BE NEAR THAT CHAOS! IT'LL SLOW YOU DOWN.

SO FIELD THE CALLS. DON'T GIVE THEM ANY STATEMENT... AND TELL THOSE WE'RE FRIENDLY WITH WE'LL GET BACK TO THEM.





...AND THIS JUST IN... A WOMAN BELIEVED TO BE SARA JOHNSTON, THE FEMALE FREQUENTLY SEEN AT THE SIDE OF JIM DOWNING, HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN RUSHED TO MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL. REASONS FOR THIS RUSH HOUR AMBULANCE RIDE HAVE YET TO BE DETERMINED, THOUGH OUR EARLY REPORT SAYS SHE ARRIVED WITH UNSPECIFIED INJURIES OR ILLNESS. THERE IS NO WORD AS TO WHETHER SHE ENTERED OR EXITED THE AMBULANCE UNDER HER OWN POWER.

MS. JOHNSTON HAS BEEN A STEADY TOPIC OF SOCIAL MEDIA CHATTER, BASED ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHE'S IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH CONTROVERSIAL NEW CELEBRITY, JIM DOWNING. AS SOME OF YOU MAY RECALL, SHE WAS THE WOMAN CAUGHT ON CAMERA IMPLORING DOWNING TO INTERVENE WHEN A JOURNALIST WAS ACCIDENTLY STRUCK BY A BUS NEAR WHERE THEY WERE STANDING.

IN THAT INCIDENT, DOWNING, FOR THE FIRST TIME, USED HIS MYSTERIOUS HEALING POWERS IN FULL PUBLIC VIEW. SINCE THEN, HE HAS BEEN HOUNDED BY THE MEDIA, INCLUDING OUR OWN REPORTERS, AS WE HAVE ALL BEEN SEARCHING FOR CLUES TO HIS PAST.



THE RAMUS CORPORATION, WITH THE HELP OF SOME CITY OFFICIALS, QUICKLY HELPED FORM A NEW FOUNDATION THAT MR. DOWNING INTENDED TO USE AS THE CENTER FOR ADMINISTERING HIS UNUSUAL POWERS OF HEALING. BUT SOON AFTER CONSTRUCTION BEGAN, DOWNING BECAME ELUSIVE TOWARD THE PRESS. THOUGH HE HAS BEEN OUT AND AROUND TOWN, HE SEEMS TO APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE EACH TIME. SOURCES SAY THIS IS DUE TO A STRICT SECURITY BLANKET PUT AROUND HIM BY MR. RAMUS.

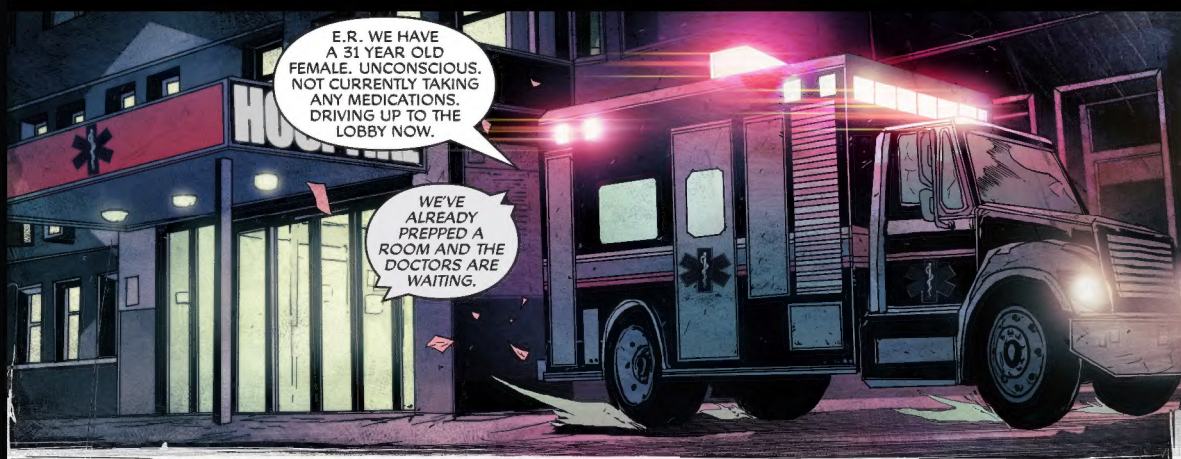
IT WAS PRECISELY DOWNING'S LACK OF ACCESS THAT LED SOME REPORTERS TO FOCUS ON THOSE CLOSE TO HIM, IN HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON HIS CURRENT ACTIVITIES. FOUNDATION SPOKESMAN, MARC ROSEN, HAS, FOR THE MOST PART, GIVEN SCRIPTED NON-ANSWERS. SO, MISS JOHNSTON BECAME A TARGET FOR MANY IN THE MEDIA. SOME SAY SHE IS DOWNING'S GIRLFRIEND, WHILE OTHERS SAY THEY MERELY HAVE A STRONG FRIENDSHIP. GIVEN THAT SHE WAS HIS BEDSIDE NURSE FOR THE YEARS HE WAS COMATOSE.



THIS IS ABSURD!! I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU FOR MONTHS NOW THAT JIM DOWNING'S A **FRAUD** AND THIS JUST **CLINCHES** IT! YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE THAT THIS GUY, WHO'S PRETENDING TO BE A **MESSIAH**-- WITH ALL THESE **VOO-DOO POWERS** TO HEAL EVERY PERSON OF EVERY ALIMENT-- CAN'T FIX THE LADY WHO'S **CLOSEST** TO HIM? **GIVE ME A BREAK!**

WHAT'S THE USE OF **HAVING** THOSE POWERS IF YOU CAN'T USE THEM ON YOUR FRIENDS OR FAMILY?! SO, NOW WE'RE TOLD TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE CAN FIX EVERYONE **EXCEPT** HIS FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES. REALLY, FOLKS, THIS IS GETTING RIDICULOUS! MAYBE THE REASON HE CAN'T CURE HER OR HEAL HER, OR WHATEVER HE SUPPOSEDLY DOES, IS BE CAUSE **HE'S A FAKE!!** A **CHARLATAN!** A **CON MAN!** I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE WHO SEES THIS FOR A BLATANT HOAX-- **CAN I?**

IT'S TIME FOR YOU GOOD FOLKS TO **TAKE OFF** YOUR ROSE COLORED GLASSES AND PUT ON YOUR T-SHIRT THAT SAYS **'MY NAME IS TUCKER... NOT SUCKER!'** THEY'RE AVAILABLE AT MY WEBSITE.



E.R. WE HAVE
A 31 YEAR OLD
FEMALE. UNCONSCIOUS.
NOT CURRENTLY TAKING
ANY MEDICATIONS.
DRIVING UP TO THE
LOBBY NOW.

WE'VE
ALREADY
PREPPED A
ROOM AND THE
DOCTORS ARE
WAITING.



WHAT'S
HER
PRESSURE?

200 WHEN
WE ARRIVED.
SITTING AT
170 NOW.

ANY SIGNS
OF SERIOUS
INJURIES?

NO.
SOME BODY
CONTUSIONS
AND A FEW MINOR
LACERATIONS ON THE
BACK AND AROUND
THE NECK AREA, BUT
NO INDICATIONS OF
ANY INTERNAL
RUPTURES.

WHAT INFO
DO WE HAVE
AS TO WHAT
HAPPENED?

THE POLICE
AREN'T SAYING,
BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE
THE BOYFRIEND
FOUND HER IN THIS
CONDITION.



BLOOD
FLOW SEEMS
STABLE, BUT SHE'S
SUFFERING FROM
TRAUMATIC SHOCK
AT THE LEAST. WE
NEED TO GET HER
UP TO C.T. AND
DO A SCAN.

YOU
WANT A
FULL BODY
M.R.I.?

YES--
JUST TO BE
SAFE. BUT
I WANT SOME
QUICK BLOOD
SAMPLES
FIRST.

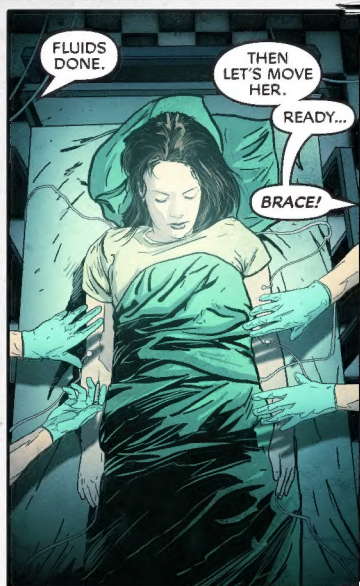


DID YOU
HEAR SHE HAS
SOMETHING TO
DO WITH THAT
DOWNING GUY
FROM TV?

SO
THEY TELL
ME.



WHEN
HE SHOWS,
TELL THE
NURSES
I MAY NEED
TO TALK TO
HIM.



FLUIDS DONE.

THEN LET'S MOVE HER.

READY...

BRACE!



PUPILS SLIGHTLY DILATED.

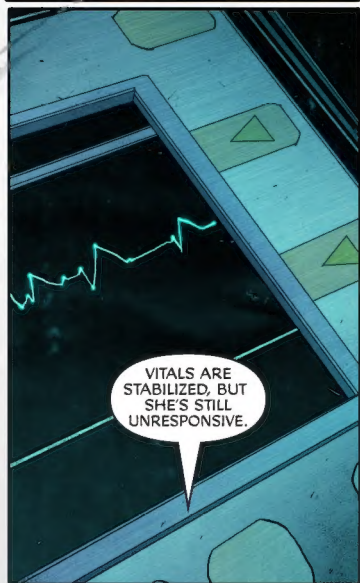


JOHNSTON. I'M LOOKING FOR SARA JOHNSTON. SHE JUST CAME IN!



EXCUSE ME! A PATIENT JUST CAME IN. A YOUNG FEMALE, DID YOU SEE HER?

I THINK THE RECEPTIONIST IS CHECKING ON IT ALREADY.



VITALS ARE STABILIZED, BUT SHE'S STILL UNRESPONSIVE.



MR. DOWNING-- PLEASE, SIR, YOU NEED TO SLOW DOWN. I'LL GET WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

THANKS, OFFICER. SORRY ABOUT THAT.



25 MINUTES LATER.

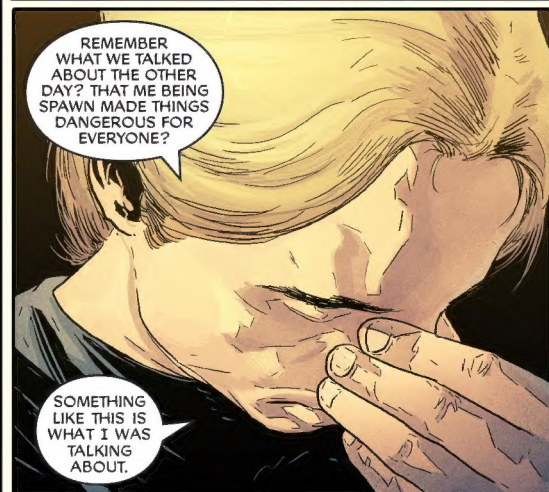
MR. ROSEN!

MR. ROSEN!

IS IT TRUE THAT DOWNING'S GIRLFRIEND WAS...

WHY DIDN'T HE JUST HEAL HER?

MARC...?



MR. DOWNING?
I'M DR. TROPSKI.
MY REPORT SAYS YOU
WERE THE ONE THAT
DISCOVERED MS.
JOHNSTON IN HER
APARTMENT.

YES,
THAT'S
CORRECT.
HOW'S
SARA? CAN
I SEE
HER?

I'M
AFRAID
NOT. AT
LEAST NOT
NOW.

SHE'S
OKAY,
RIGHT?

SHE'S STABLE AND ALL
HER READINGS ARE NORMAL,
BUT SHE'S LAPSED INTO A COMA.
THERE'S NO DAMAGE TO THE BRAIN,
AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, BUT WE
NEED TO MONITOR HER CLOSELY
FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS.

IS IT LIFE
THREATENING?

NO. WE
DON'T BELIEVE SO.
WE'VE SEEN SITUATIONS
LIKE THIS WHERE
TRAUMA IS INCURRED
AND THE PATIENT'S
SYSTEM SHUTS ITSELF
DOWN.

FOR NOW SHE'S
RESTING WELL AND THE
NURSING STAFF HAS BEEN
INSTRUCTED TO CONTACT ME IF
ANYTHING CHANGES. YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND THE UNKNOWN
FACTORS WE'RE DEALING WITH
SINCE YOU ALSO EXPERIENCED A
COMA TOO. I'M SURE SHE'LL BE
AS STRONG AND HEALTHY
AS YOU ARE.

SO
WHEN
WILL SHE
COME
OUT OF
IT?

THAT'S
UNKNOWN.
COULD BE
TODAY OR IT
MIGHT LAST
LONGER.

HOW
MUCH
LONGER?

IT
DEPENDS
ON A
NUMBER OF
FACTORS.

AND
GIVEN
THOSE
FACTORS--
WHAT'S
YOUR BEST
GUESS?

I'D RATHER
NOT GUESS.
WE'RE STILL AWAITING
SOME ADDITIONAL
TEST RESULTS THAT
MAY SHED SOME
LIGHT ON HER
CONDITION.

SO YOU HAVE NO
IDEA? NOT EVEN A BALLPARK?
LOOK, I'M NOT GOING TO HOLD
YOU TO ANYTHING OR SUE YOU IF
YOU'RE OFF--IF THAT'S WHAT'S
HOLDING YOU BACK. I'M JUST
TRYING TO UNDERSTAND IF IT'S
BETWEEN A DAY AND TEN
YEARS. THAT'S ALL!

WHAT?!
YOU WANT
ME TO CALM
DOWN?
MARC...

THIS IS ALL BULLSHIT!
HE'S NOT GOING TO TELL YOU
ANYTHING BECAUSE HE'S AFRAID OF
MALPRACTICE. I'VE BEEN THROUGH
THIS ROUTINE BEFORE.

WHY DON'T
YOU GO DOWNSTAIRS
AND HANDLE THE PRESS?
WE'LL TALK ABOUT
THIS LATER.

WHAT-
EVER.



I KNOW YOU HAVE YOUR RULES. I'M NOT TRYING TO GET ANYONE IN TROUBLE-- BUT IS THERE ANY WAY...

YOU WANT TO SEE HER, DON'T YOU?

I THINK I CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN, BUT ONLY FOR A FEW MINUTES.

WHEN YOU'RE DONE, COME FIND ME IN MY OFFICE.

15 MINUTES LATER.

AS HARD AS ALL OF THIS HAS BEEN, MR. DOWNING, I THINK WE SHOULD ALL BE AS HONEST AS POSSIBLE WITH EACH OTHER. YOUR FRIEND, SARA, IS SUFFERING FROM AN ACUTE ATTACK TO HER IMMUNE SYSTEM. IT'S A BIOLOGICAL STRAIN THAT ISN'T NORMALLY FOUND IN HUMANS... IN FACT FROM OUR OBSERVATIONS IT HAS TO BE 'PLANTED' IN A BODY. EVEN THEN IT CAN ONLY TAKE HOLD IF A PRIOR TRIGGER WAS RELEASED. IN ESSENCE, THE ONLY WAY MISS JOHNSTON COULD CONCEIVABLY BE IN THIS CONDITION IS FROM A TWO-FOLD ATTACK.

HER VISIT TO 'THE BLACK' WAS THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRIGGER. BUT YOU HAD SEX WITH HER... THAT'S WHAT REALLY CAUSED ALL OF THIS.

THE FIRST FROM HER ENVIRONMENT, AND THE SECOND IN A MORE PERSONAL FASHION.

I'M NOT QUITE FOLLOWING.

THEN LET ME SEE IF I CAN MAKE THIS A BIT CLEARER.

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?



COME NOW, MR. DOWNING. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SIT THERE AND TRY TO PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU JUST DID TO YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?

WOW. THIS IS GETTING WEIRD.

NOT REALLY. SURELY YOU KNOW BY NOW THAT YOUR ENEMIES CAN BE ALMOST ANYWHERE.



EVEN DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU.



YOU DO ANYTHING TO HARM SARA...!



YOU'LL WHAT? KILL US? TWO HIGHLY RESPECTED DOCTORS IN THE FIELD? YOU'RE JUST GOING TO MURDER US IN A HOSPITAL FULL OF COPS AND MEDIA? YOU'RE SMARTER THAN THAT.

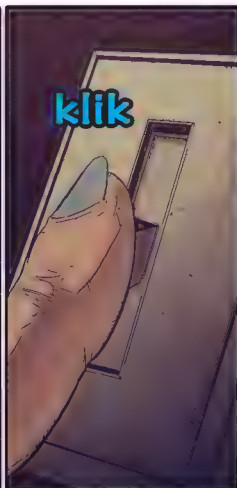


MY COLLEAGUE IS RIGHT; YOU DON'T WANT TO KILL US. YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE WE'RE THE ONLY ONES THAT CAN SAVE MISS SARA FROM HER CURRENT CONDITION. SO, ARE WE VAMPIRES? NO. NOT BOTH OF US. MY DEAR ASSOCIATE BEHIND YOU IS COMPLETELY HUMAN. HE'S ALSO COMPLETELY LOYAL TO OUR CAUSE.

BUT WHAT SHOULD BE MORE TROUBLING TO YOU, IS YOU'RE THE ONE WHO 'INFECTED' SARA.

SIMPLY SLEEPING WITH HER WOULDN'T HAVE CAUSED THAT. DEMONS AND HUMANS HAVE BEEN BREEDING FOR CENTURIES. WHAT TRIGGERED IT, IS THAT IT HAPPENED DIRECTLY AFTER YOU TOOK HER FROM 'THE BLACK.' HER BODY WAS WEAKENED AND YOUR COSTUME FED OFF THAT-- THROUGH YOUR SPERM. BECAUSE LIKE IT OR NOT, YOUR SYMBIOTE HAS TAINTED ALL YOUR D.N.A. IN EFFECT, YOU'VE POISONED THE ONLY WOMAN YOU SEEM TO CARE ABOUT.

Elsewhere:



Later:





HEL...

IT'S
TIME.



TIME
FOR YOU TO
BECOME AS
POWERFUL AS
YOU COULD
EVER
WANT!




BECAUSE YOUR FRIEND, SARA-- I THOUGHT SHE WAS A 'GOOD GIRL'.

BUT SHE SPREAD HER LEGS AS EASY AS YOU DID FOR DOWNING. THAT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN, NOT *THIS* WAY!




WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? YOU JEALOUS OR SOMETHING?

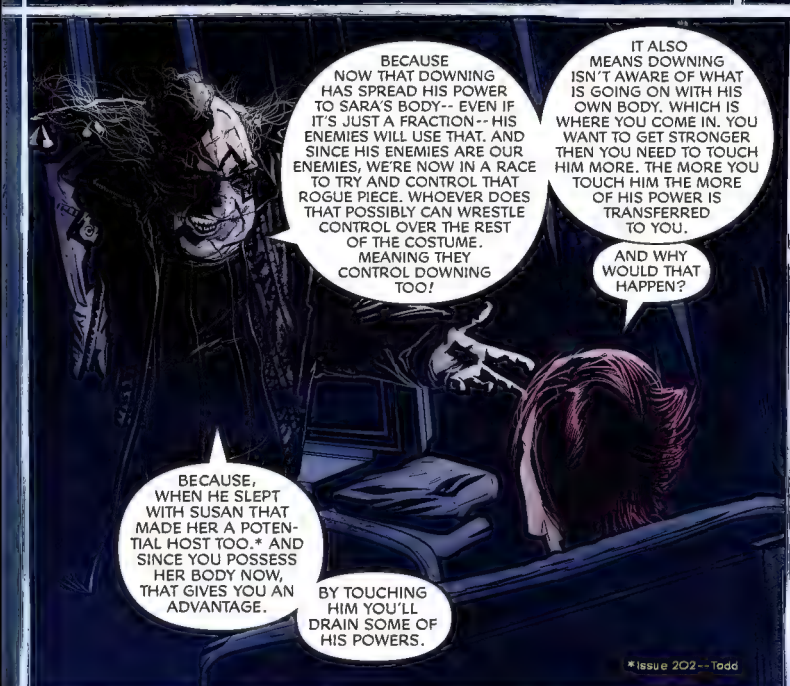


I'M NOT JEALOUS. I'M CONCERNED! AND SO SHOULD YOU BE. DOWNING HAS INADVERTENTLY EXPOSED HIMSELF BY LETTING THE COSTUME SEEP INTO SOMEONE ELSE.

SO, YOU'RE GOING TO DO ME A FAVOR.



WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT.




BECAUSE NOW THAT DOWNING HAS SPREAD HIS POWER TO SARA'S BODY-- EVEN IF IT'S JUST A FRACTION-- HIS ENEMIES WILL USE THAT. AND SINCE HIS ENEMIES ARE OUR ENEMIES, WE'RE NOW IN A RACE TO TRY AND CONTROL THAT ROGUE PIECE. WHOEVER DOES THAT POSSIBLY CAN WRESTLE CONTROL OVER THE REST OF THE COSTUME. MEANING THEY CONTROL DOWNING TOO!

IT ALSO MEANS DOWNING ISN'T AWARE OF WHAT IS GOING ON WITH HIS OWN BODY. WHICH IS WHERE YOU COME IN. YOU WANT TO GET STRONGER THEN YOU NEED TO TOUCH HIM MORE. THE MORE YOU TOUCH HIM THE MORE OF HIS POWER IS TRANSFERRED TO YOU.

AND WHY WOULD THAT HAPPEN?

BECAUSE, WHEN HE SLEPT WITH SUSAN THAT MADE HER A POTENTIAL HOST TOO.* AND SINCE YOU POSSESS HER BODY NOW, THAT GIVES YOU AN ADVANTAGE.

BY TOUCHING HIM YOU'LL DRAIN SOME OF HIS POWERS.



HE WON'T EVEN KNOW IT'S HAPPENING.



Sara Johnston

AS WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS STORY, SARA JOHNSTON, THE FEMALE COMPANION OF JIM DOWNING, HAS REPORTEDLY LAPPED INTO A COMA. DOCTORS AT MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL HAVEN'T CONFIRMED THIS, BUT THEY ARE DUE TO HAVE A SMALL PRESS BRIEFING LATER TONIGHT. SOURCES WHO SPOKE ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY SAID THAT MS. JOHNSTON DIDN'T APPEAR TO HAVE ANY INJURIES THAT MAY HAVE DIRECTLY CAUSED HER CONDITION. IT IS ALSO UNKNOWN WHETHER SHE WAS FOUND IN THIS STATE, OR SUCCUMBED WHILE AT THE HOSPITAL.

FOR NOW, THE HOSPITAL IS CALLING HER CONDITION 'STABLE,' WITH FURTHER DETAILS TO BE GIVEN AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE. EARLIER TODAY JOHN DOE FOUNDATION SPOKESMAN AND RAMUS INDUSTRIES CHAIRMAN, MATTHEW RAMUS, HAD THESE BRIEF COMMENTS...

BREAKING NEWS

CNR

SHE'S RESTING PEACEFULLY FOR NOW. DOCTORS SAY THERE ARE NO BODILY INJURIES AND THAT TEST RESULTS, SO FAR, SEEM POSITIVE. OBVIOUSLY, WE'RE HOPING FOR A FULL RECOVERY.



MY ONLY CONCERN IS FOR SARA. I'LL WORRY ABOUT THE FOUNDATION AND MY OTHER BUSINESS INTERESTS LATER.



SO LET ME ASK YOU, DOCTOR. AS IT HAS BEEN REPORTED, IS SHE ACTUALLY IN A COMA? WHAT AMOUNT OF TIME CAN WE EXPECT BEFORE SHE RECOVERS?



FIRST OFF, LET ME SAY, UNLESS SOME UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCE OCCURS, SHE WILL WAKE UP. THE POSSIBLE DURATION OF HER COMA IS SOMETHING WE CAN'T CALCULATE, DUE TO THE COMPLEXITY OF THE HUMAN BRAIN. IN MOST CASES THOUGH, THE PATIENT WILL WAKE AND WITHIN A FEW DAYS WILL ACT AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED AT ALL. IN RARE OCCASIONS WE'VE SEEN THAT THERE CAN BE SLIGHT TO EXTREME MEMORY LOSS, WHICH CAN HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE MOTOR SKILLS OF THAT PERSON.

IF I UNDERSTAND, THEN, THERE COULD BE SOME PHYSICAL THERAPY INVOLVED UPON WAKING, MORE AS A FUNCTION OF THE BRAIN FORGETTING HOW TO MOVE ITSELF IN A NORMAL FASHION?

ESSENTIALLY, YES.



YOU WALK OUT OF
HERE NOW AND YOU CONDEMN
YOUR GIRLFRIEND TO A SLOW AGONIZING
DEATH. THAT'S A GUARANTEE. WE'RE HER
ONLY HOPE. THE ONLY ONES THAT KNOW
ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH HER 'SICKNESS'.
SHE'S GOT LESS THAN 48 HOURS BEFORE
HER NERVOUS SYSTEM BEGINS
SHUTTING DOWN.

BUT I
CAN CURE
HER IF YOU'RE
WILLING TO GIVE
ME WHAT I
WANT.

AND WHAT
WOULD
THAT BE?

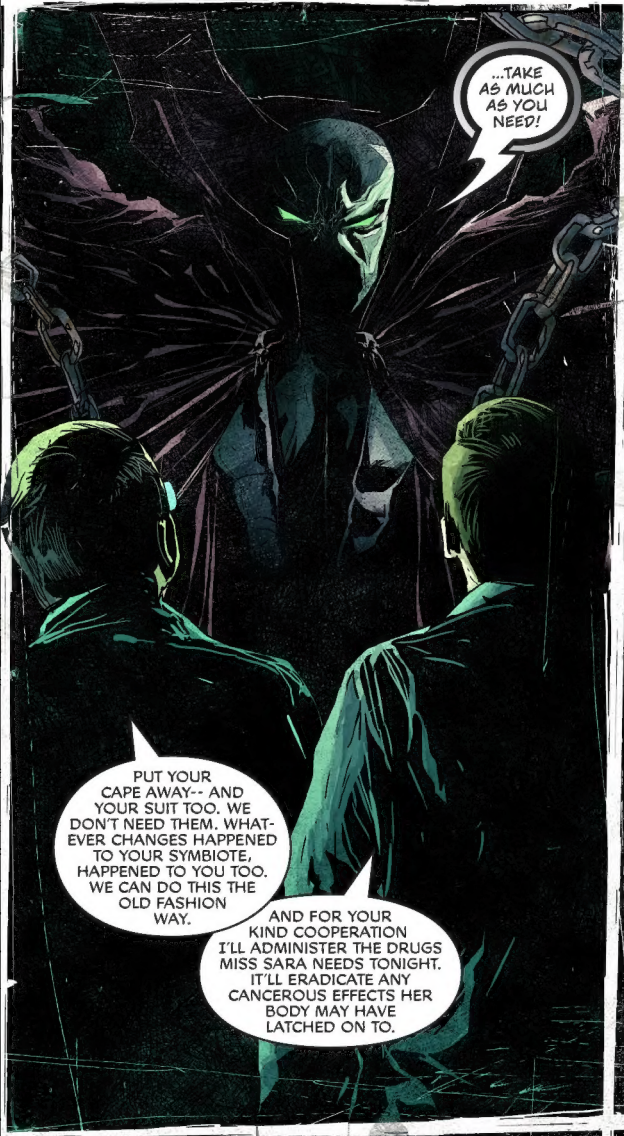
THE ONLY
REAL THING
THAT
MATTERS.

A SAMPLE
OF YOUR
BLOOD.

WHEN YOU
WENT INTO *'THE BLACK'*
TO RESCUE HER, YOUR
SYMBIOTE HAD TO MERGE WITH
THAT DARKNESS. THAT MEANS IT
FUSED WITH THOSE MOLECULES
FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME. I
WANT A SAMPLE OF WHAT
THAT LOOKS LIKE.

OR MORE
SPECIFICALLY,
MR. RAMUS WANTS
A SAMPLE OF
WHAT THAT
LOOKS LIKE.

THEN
TAKE
IT...



...TAKE
AS MUCH
AS YOU
NEED!

PUT YOUR
CAPE AWAY-- AND
YOUR SUIT TOO. WE
DON'T NEED THEM. WHAT-
EVER CHANGES HAPPENED
TO YOUR SYMBIOTE,
HAPPENED TO YOU TOO.
WE CAN DO THIS THE
OLD FASHION
WAY.

AND FOR YOUR
KIND COOPERATION
I'LL ADMINISTER THE DRUGS
MISS SARA NEEDS TONIGHT.
IT'LL ERADICATE ANY
CANCEROUS EFFECTS HER
BODY MAY HAVE
LATCHED ON TO.



HOW
LONG WILL
SHE BE IN HER
COMA?

THAT WE
DON'T KNOW.
BUT, AT LEAST
SHE'LL BE
HEALTHY WHEN
SHE DOES COME
OUT OF IT.



WE'RE
DONE
HERE.

YOU
KNOW WHERE
I'LL BE.



WILL YOU
LOOK AT THAT?
RAMUS IS
GOING TO BE
VERY
PLEASED.



**KNOCK
KNOCK**

JIM...?
CAN WE
COME
IN?

OF
COURSE.

THANKS.
SORRY ABOUT
MY OUTBURST
EARLIER. I WENT
THROUGH THIS
WITH MY DAD
YEARS AGO.



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT. YOUR
HEART WAS IN
THE RIGHT
SPOT.

SUSAN'S
HERE TOO. SHE
WANTED TO GIVE
HER SUPPORT IN
PERSON.



THERE.
THERE.

SHE'S
GOING TO BE
FINE. WE JUST
NEED TO BE PATIENT
AND LET THIS
THING RUN ITS
COURSE.

I... I
JUST CAN'T
BELIEVE IT.
TELL ME SHE'S
GOING TO BE
OKAY, JIM.
PLEASE.

THANKS
FOR HOLDING
DOWN THE FORT
TODAY. HOW
YOU HOLDING
UP?

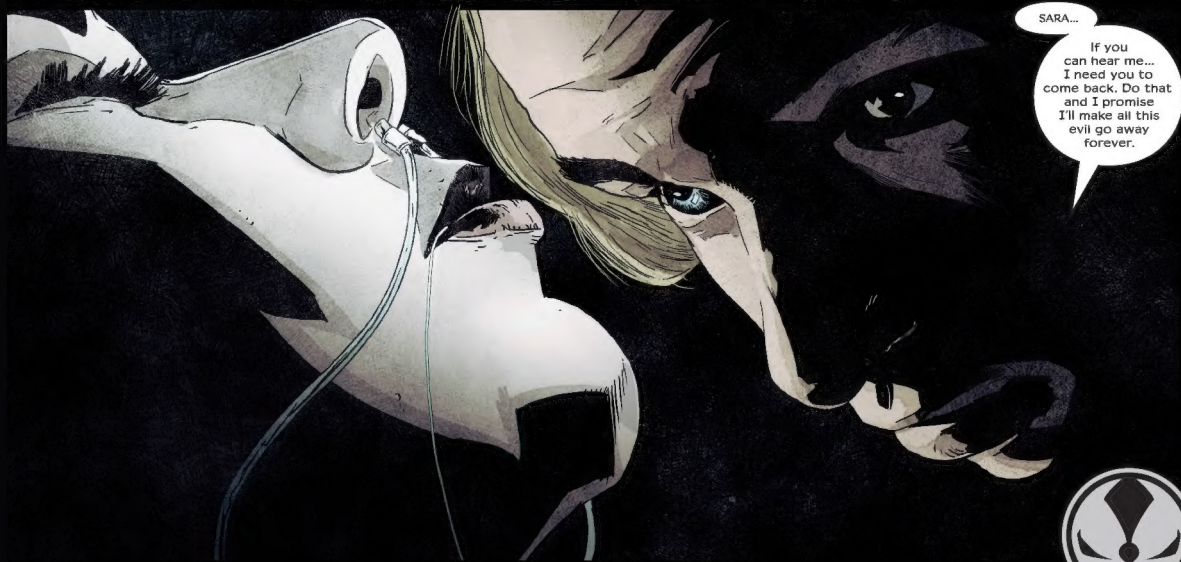


I'M FINE.
JUST... HOLD
ME A BIT
LONGER.



OH...!
LOOK AT ME! I'M
ACTING LIKE... A
FOOL! I WANTED TO
BE HERE. JUST BE
WITH HER.

THE NURSES
TOLD US WE SHOULD
KEEP OUR TALKING TO A
MINIMUM. SARA NEEDS
SILENCE FOR THE NEXT
24 HOURS.



SARA...

If you
can hear me...
I need you to
come back. Do that
and I promise
I'll make all this
evil go away
forever.





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE